

5-17-1967

## Correspondence, John C. Stennis, May 17-26, 1967

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/jcs-civil-rights-correspondence>

---

### Preferred Citation

[Title], John C. Stennis Collection. Congressional and Political Research Center, Mississippi State University Libraries.

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the John C. Stennis Digital Collections at Scholars Junction. It has been accepted for inclusion in Civil Rights Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Scholars Junction. For more information, please contact [scholcomm@msstate.libanswers.com](mailto:scholcomm@msstate.libanswers.com).

[REDACTED]

HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI

[REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATOR

May 17, 1967

al

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
MAY 19 1967  
JOHN STENNIS

Senator John Stennis  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Stennis:

I am enclosing copy of HEW-441 Form covering "Assurance of Compliance with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare Regulation under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964". I am also enclosing a copy of a letter which is being addressed to each member of our Board of Trustees. Will you please carefully review these matters and see if you cannot give our church hospital, the Methodist Hospital of Hattiesburg, some relief?

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]

WST:vg

P. S. Why cannot people who are sick, requiring hospitalization, have a freedom of choice regardless of race, etc.? Why are the older people in particular discriminated against and their liberties taken away from them just because they are under medicare and part of their hospital expenses paid by so called federal funds which are actually the taxpayers' money? Note that the schools are required to send out so called Freedom of Choice as to the school the student prefers. Does this not set up a basis of discrimination? We talk about freedom and civil rights but where are the civil rights of the people of all races when they are so dominated by federal bureaucracy and the requirements as set out by HEW which takes away from them all of their civil rights?

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: [REDACTED]

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: [REDACTED]

ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE REGULATION UNDER  
TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

\_\_\_\_\_ (hereinafter called the "Applicant")  
(Name of Applicant)

HEREBY AGREES THAT it will comply with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) and all requirements imposed by or pursuant to the Regulation of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (45 CFR Part 80) issued pursuant to that title, to the end that, in accordance with title VI of that Act and the Regulation, no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the Applicant receives Federal financial assistance from the Department; and HEREBY GIVES ASSURANCE THAT it will immediately take any measures necessary to effectuate this agreement. 7

If any real property or structure thereon is provided or improved with the aid of Federal financial assistance extended to the Applicant by the Department, this assurance shall obligate the Applicant, or in the case of any transfer of such property, any transferee, for the period during which the real property or structure is used for a purpose for which the Federal financial assistance is extended or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits. If any personal property is so provided, this assurance shall obligate the Applicant for the period during which it retains ownership or possession of the property. In all other cases, this assurance shall obligate the Applicant for the period during which the Federal financial assistance is extended to it by the Department. } Not applicable as we have no Federal funds.

THIS ASSURANCE is given in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining any and all Federal grants, loans, contracts, property, discounts or other Federal financial assistance extended after the date hereof to the Applicant by the Department, including installment payments after such date on account of applications for Federal financial assistance which were approved before such date. The Applicant recognizes and agrees that such Federal financial assistance will be extended in reliance on the representations and agreements made in this assurance, and that the United States shall have the right to seek judicial enforcement of this assurance. This assurance is binding on the Applicant, its successors, transferees, and assignees, and the person or persons whose signatures appear below are authorized to sign this assurance on behalf of the Applicant. } No.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Applicant)

By \_\_\_\_\_  
(President, Chairman of Board, or comparable  
authorized official)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Applicant's mailing address)

May 17, 1967

ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
of the [REDACTED]

Gentlemen:

I am enclosing a copy from the original form which is required as to assurance of compliance with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Please read this form, word for word, very carefully and you will note that actually our hospital should not be required to sign same as we do not have any federal financial assistance of any kind nor are we seeking such; further, as to Paragraph II, we do not have any real property or structures thereon or any department which has any federal financial assistance.

As to Paragraph III, this paragraph relates that you would be signing up for the purpose of obtaining federal grants, etc., and I feel that our hospital does not contemplate any such thing.

Referring back to Paragraph I, you will note that you agree to comply with Title VI but by careful reading of the wording you will further note that you are subject to any and all requirements imposed by HEW and to any that they might in the future impose. It would seem that the purpose and intent by this assurance requirement as it is written is to trap the hospitals and get them under federal domination with eventual full federal control.

Since it is so evident that this form of compliance does not apply to our hospital and others like it, I suggest that each of you write your Senators and Congressmen and demand that hospitals like ours be allowed to participate without government domination and the signing of such compliance as presented here.

Yours truly,  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

WST:vg  
enc.

32 - Guidelines  
Hattiesburg Methodist  
Hospital

RICHARD B. RUSSELL, GA., CHAIRMAN

JOHN STENNIS, MISS.  
STUART SYMINGTON, MO.  
HENRY M. JACKSON, WASH.  
SAM J. ERVIN, JR., N.C.  
HOWARD W. CANNON, NEV.  
ROBERT C. BYRD, W. VA.  
STEPHEN M. YOUNG, OHIO  
DANIEL K. INOUE, HAWAII  
THOMAS J. MCINTYRE, N.H.  
DANIEL B. BREWSTER, MD.  
HARRY F. BYRD, JR., VA.

MARGARET CHASE SMITH, MAINE  
STROM THURMOND, S.C.  
JACK MILLER, IOWA  
JOHN G. TOWER, TEX.  
JAMES B. PEARSON, KANS.  
PETER H. DOMINICK, COLO.

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

May 26, 1967

WILLIAM H. DARDEN, CHIEF OF STAFF  
CHARLES B. KIRBOW, CHIEF CLERK

[REDACTED]  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you very much for your recent letter regarding the Assurance of Compliance with the HEW Regulation under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which the Department requires that the Methodist Hospital in order to be eligible to participate in the Medicare Program.

I can certainly understand your objections to being required to execute this Assurance of Compliance, and I think it is a disgrace that the Federal government would deny to our elderly people the medical care to which they are entitled in order to put pressure on the hospitals to submit to these harsh and unreasonable guidelines. As you know, I have vigorously and consistently opposed the imposition of these callous regulations on our hospitals and last year I was successful in forcing the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to relax some of the more extreme demands. I got an amendment adopted in the Senate to the Appropriations Bill for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare which prohibited them from using any money appropriated by the bill to enforce any requirements on our hospitals contrary to the well-being of any individual patient. Although this amendment did not pass in the House, it did force the Secretary of HEW to make some very important concessions in order to get the HEW Appropriation Bill through Congress. I am enclosing a copy of the Statement I made on the floor at that time outlining the agreement entered into by the Secretary of HEW which I think will be helpful to you in considering the Assurance of Compliance form.

I realize that there are still many onerous and unreasonable requirements being imposed on our hospitals. Still I think we have made some progress in this area, and I assure you I will continue to do everything I can to provide further relief. Your comments will certainly encourage me in my efforts along the lines, and I deeply appreciate your taking the time to discuss this serious problem with me.

Sincerely yours,

John Stennis  
United States Senator

JS/mp

Enclosure